

President's Report 2002-2003

Delivered at the AGM on
25 October 2003.

One of the major functions of the RZS is in the realm of publishing and, since the AGM last year, two publications have appeared.

The first is *Australian Zoologist* Vol 32, No 2 of February 2003, edited by Dan Lunney and Brad Law. The editorial committee also comprises fellow councillors/former councillors Peter Banks, Dieter Hochuli, Lyndall Dawson and Ron Strahan. The second is the *Conserving Marine Environments*, edited by Pat Hutchings and Dan Lunney, which is the outcome of the RZS forum of last October.

Also in advanced stages of production are three more publications. Two of these, *Australian Zoologist* Vol 32, No 3, and *Urban Wildlife. More than meets the eye*, are soon to go on the printing presses and members receiving publications will receive them soon. The third, the *Conservation of Australia's Forest Fauna*, will follow later.

If we add the publications together for the last few years with imminent publications, it is evident that the Society has been applying itself to fulfilling its aim of communicating the science of zoology and using that knowledge to assist in conserving our fauna and their habitats.

As I mentioned last year, I would like to give a special thanks to Dan Lunney the Editor in charge who not only does a hell of a lot of editing but also by doing a lot of proofing and checking we have been able to contain the costs of our publications.

Council is really trying ways of increasing out book sales, but we are still novices in this area - we need to get our publications into Co-op bookshops. We took out an advert in *Nature Australia*, and increasingly we are using email lists to advertise their availability - this seems to be working with *Conserving marine environments*.

This year we had a very successful round of Whitley awards - and full details appear in this issue of *Australian Zoologist*. We are continuing to work with the publishers trying to get these major zoological awards a higher profile.

We were able to award 9 student grants under the Ethel Mary Read awards- and again this is critically important to foster the next generation of zoologists.

I should also like to publicly thank Ian Langford Brown who has been our treasurer for the past 2 years and was able to complete the books and organise the audit before he resigned to take on a very senior role in the Scouting organisation. Ian has kept the Council in order and ensured that we comply with the Articles of Association. We wish him well in his next venture. Our new treasurer will be Louise Gruber, also a Chartered Accountant, and I am sure that Louise will keep all our accounts in order. This year we joined the new century by databasing our financial records, and with the membership database being transferred to Access we really have become organised. For this we must thank the hours which Jean Claude Herremans and Peter Banks have spent setting this up and teaching Gilly, our Executive officer, and being on hand to deal with the inevitable teething problems.

This year has been difficult with the changes to the RZS rooms, but this is now behind us and we are moving forwards, again people like Gilly and Ian bore the brunt of these disruptions.

Some of you will notice the absence of Ron Strahan today he is unwell and in hospital - and we wish him a recovery.

Finally I would like to thank all of Council who have ensured that the RZS has had another successful year- and even more important you, our members, and it is encouraging that our numbers are staying fairly constant and we are able to have such a stimulating meeting as we have had today and hopefully some new members as a result.

So thank you and enjoy the rugby tonight and may the best team win.

Pat Hutchings
President

Note: Two FRZSs were awarded at the 2003 AGM (to Paul Adam and Martin Denny). The text of the presentations will be published in the next edition of *Australian Zoologist*.